

# Memorandum

TO : SAC, CHICAGO (7-2503) (P) (SQ. 3)

DATE: March 31, 1980

FROM : SA [REDACTED]

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b7CSUBJECT: UNSUBS;  
SHERMAN A. SKOLNICK - VICTIM  
POSSIBLE KIDNAPING

On March 28, 1980, [REDACTED] for captioned victim, advised that earlier she had observed Skolnick on crutches entering a vehicle in front of his house bearing unrecalled Indiana license plates. At that time she indicated she was calling from a service station, telephone number P12-3083, and that she had contacted the Chicago Police Department, as it appeared as if Mr. Skolnick was being taken from his residence possibly against his will.

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Shortly thereafter, Officer [REDACTED] 4th District, [REDACTED] was contacted and confirmed the above information.

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On the same date, Commander O'Reilly, 4th District, Chicago Police Department, private phone number [REDACTED] telephonically contacted writer, and advised that at approximately 12:15 p.m. today as [REDACTED] pulled up to the residence of Sherman Skolnick, she observed Skolnick being helped into a vehicle bearing current Indiana license plates. Skolnick was on crutches and was being helped by two males. He stated to her, "they are taking me out of here," and as the car pulled away he continued to appear to be registering a protest. [REDACTED] indicated that she did not hear any threats, and it did not appear as if he was being hurt in any way.

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Commander O'Reilly stated that he recalled at one point and time that Skolnick was involved in a matter in the Northern District of Indiana, following which he was held in Contempt of Court. He inquired if this office knew of the individual, who he believed to be a former Special Agent who was in charge of the Northern Indiana Crime Commission.

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(2) dkj

Buy U.S. Savings Bonds Regularly on the Payroll

7-2503-1

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| [REDACTED]  |         |

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FBI/DOJ

CG 7-2503

On the same date, a phone call was placed to the Gary, Indiana, Resident Agency, and writer spoke with SA [redacted] who advised that he was aware of an individual by the name of [redacted] who is a [redacted] and had a phone number of [redacted] in the [redacted] area, who had stated to him at one time something about Skolnick which he could not recall [redacted] had a [redacted] called [redacted]

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On the same date, the above information was made available to Commander O'Reilly, who shortly thereafter advised that he had learned Sherman Skolnick was presently in custody at the Porter County Sheriff's Office jail in Valparaiso, Indiana. He was at that time presently being booked and was transported by the Allied Bonding Company. Commander O'Reilly indicated that this did not constitute a violation of the State Kidnaping Statute, and that his office was not taking additional action.

On the same date, Assistant United States Attorney, (AUSA), [redacted] was contacted and furnished the above information. AUSA [redacted] advised that he did not feel, based on the information at this time, that this constituted a violation of the Federal Kidnaping Statute. He indicated that in most bail bond situations, the individual who receives the bond fee signs a contract which stipulates that if he forfeits and does not comply with the contract by not showing up it is set forth in the contract that he is subject to be picked up by the bonding company. [redacted] indicated that he was not aware of the contract, but cited this as merely an example. Based on AUSA [redacted] opinion, this office is not conducting additional investigation regarding this matter at this time.

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Skolnick is well known to this Division, and is described as a white male, Date of Birth July 30, 1930, residence 9800 South Oglesby, Chicago, Illinois, Social Security Number 346-03-0283.

219 South Dearborn Street  
Chicago, Illinois 60604  
March 31, 1980

Mr. Thomas P. Sullivan  
United States Attorney  
Department of Justice  
Fifteenth Floor - South  
Everett McKinley Dirksen Building  
Chicago, Illinois 60604

Attention: Assistant United States Attorney

[REDACTED]

Re: Unknown Subjects;  
Sherman A. Skolnick - Victim  
Kidnaping

Dear Mr. Sullivan:

This will serve to confirm conversation between Assistant United States Attorney (AUSA) [REDACTED] and Special Agent (SA) [REDACTED] of this office on March 28, 1980, wherein the following facts were enumerated:

On March 28, 1980, this office received a phone call from one, [REDACTED] to Sherman Skolnick, who advised that she observed Skolnick being helped into a vehicle bearing 1980 Indiana license plates by two unknown males. As she approached them, Mr. Skolnick advised her that "they are taking me out of here," and as he preceded into the car she heard him registering a protest; however, she did not hear any threats nor see Mr. Skolnick being mistreated.

Shortly thereafter, this office received an additional phone call from Officer [REDACTED] 4th District, Chicago, Illinois Police Department, who confirmed that he did talk to [REDACTED] and that he was also apprised of that information.

- 2 - Addressee  
① - Chicago

ALS/mmg

(3)

*mmg*

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*5*

4-1-80  
*[Signature]*

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*[Signature]*

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On the same date, 4th District Commander, O'Reilly, Chicago, Illinois Police Department, Chicago, Illinois, business telephone number SA 1-7201, reiterated [redacted] story, stating that at approximately 12:15 P.M., March 28, 1980, as she was arriving at the Skolnick residence, she observed two individuals, males, helping Mr. Skolnick into a vehicle bearing Indiana license plates. As she observed Skolnick, he stated, "they are taking me out of here," and further heard him registering a protest. Commander O'Reilly recalled that in the past, Skolnick had been involved in a Contempt of Court matter from the Northern District of Indiana; however, he did not have any of the particulars.

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On the same date, Commander O'Reilly advised that he had learned that Sherman Skolnick was in custody in the Porter County Sheriff's Office, Valparaiso, Indiana, and was taken there by representatives of the Allied Bonding Company.

After reviewing the above, AUSA [redacted] advised that he would decline federal prosecution for violation of Title 18, Section 2101, Kidnaping, as the facts known at this time did not warrant federal intervention. AUSA [redacted] noted that the incident did not fit the elements as reflected under the statute. He noted that the bondsmen lacked intent and although acting outside the scope of their authority, presumably believed they were in their right, having capias from the State of Indiana.

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Very truly yours,

JAMES O. INGRAM  
Special Agent in Charge

By [redacted]  
Supervisory Special Agent

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